

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4076
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ZAGREB 900

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, YO
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF FORMER SLOVENIAN JUDGE

REF: ZAGREB 443

1. ZAGREB TABLOID "VECERNJI LIST" OF OCTOBER 15 REPORTS THAT TRIAL OF FRANC MIKLAVCIC IN KRANJ ON CHARGES OF "ACTS AGAINST THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE" HAS CONCLUDED. MIKLAVCIC, A FORMER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE IN LJUBLJANA, WAS ARRESTED IN MAY (REFTEL). HE IS ACCUSED OF WANTING TO SEPARATE SLOVENIA FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND OF WORKING OUT TWELVE POINT PROGRAM IN 1971-72 WITH THAT GOAL. PROGRAM REPORTEDLY STATES SLOVENIA IS BEING "USED" BY OTHER YUGOSLAV REPUBLICS, SUPPORTS MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM AND DENUES ANY SUCCESS OF SELF-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. MIKLAVCIC IS ALSO ACCUSED OF PUBLISHING ARTICLE UNDER PSEUDONYM IN "ZALIV," REVIEW PUBLISHED IN ITALY. ARTICLE ALLEGEDLY DEFENDS EDWARD KOCBEK (SLOVENE PARTISAN LEADER, WRITER, AND POST-WAR GOVERNMENT FIGURE) AND "HIS KNOWN ANTI-YUGOSLAV STANDS AND FALSIFICATION OF TRUTH ABOUT THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND UPRISING IN SLOVENIA." OTHER CHARGES ARE RELEASING OFFICIAL SECRETS AND MISUSE OF POSITION.

2. IN DEFENSE OF MIKLAVCIC, HIS LAWYER DUSAN JELUSIC REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT DIARY, USED AS EVIDENCE BY PROSECUTION, CONTAINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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"ONLY UNSTATED THOUGHTS OF ACCUSED AND UNSTATED THOUGHTS ARE IN NO WAY INCRIMINATING ACTS AND ONE CANNOT BE PUNISHED FOR THEM."
ACCORDING TO "VECERNJI LIST," MIKLAVCIC SAID AT CLOSE OF TRIAL
"THAT ENTRIES IN HIS DIARY WERE "SENSELESS" AND "IT SEEMS STRANGE

NOW THAT I COULD HAVE THOUGHT SUCH THINGS." MIKLAVCIC REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED HE NOW SEES FUTURE OF SLOVENIA IN FEDERATION WITH OTHER YUGOSLAV PEOPLES AND NATIONALITIES.

3 CURT HANDED OUT SIX YEAR SENTENCE OCT 15.

4. BELGRADE COMMENT: USE OF ENTIRELY PRIVATE DIARY AS EVIDENCE SO REPUGNANT AND REDOLENT OF 1984 THOUGHT CONTROL IT RAISES QUESTION OF WHETHER GOY TRYING PASS MESSAGE TO POPULACE ABOUT LENGTH AUTHORITIES PREPARED TO GO TO SUPPRESS ANY OPPOSITION. REACTION IN WEST CAN HARDLY EASE STRAINS YUGOSLAVS HAVE STIRRED UP WITH MANY COUNTRIES. WE PUTTING TOGETHER LARGER PIECE ON TREND TOWARD MORE REPRESSION.
GROSS

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